

California Field Crop Review



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HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE:

Acreage and Production, California and U.S.	1
Field Crop Prices	2
Dry Bean Acreage and Production By Variety	3
Fall Potato Production and Stocks	4

NATIONAL FIELD CROP RELEASE DATES

3 P.M. EST			
Jan. 11	Cotton Ginnings	Jan. 14	Potato Stocks
12	Crop Production	Jan. 25	Cotton Ginnings
	Grain Stocks		
	Rice Stocks		

CALIFORNIA AND U.S. COTTON PRODUCTION FORECASTS

California's 1998 **Upland cotton** production forecast is 1.15 million bales as of December 1, down 8 percent from the November forecast and 48 percent below last year. This is based on 650 thousand acres for harvest, with an average yield of 849 pounds per acre. **American-Pima cotton** production is forecast at 345 thousand bales, 21 percent below last year's crop. The 184 thousand acres for harvest are unchanged from last year. Harvest continued at a rapid pace during the first-half of November, although overall progress remained well behind normal. Light to moderate rains from mid-month onward delayed harvest and caused lint quality to deteriorate.

As of December 1, the U.S. all cotton production forecast is 13.5 million bales, up 2 percent from last month, but down 28 percent from 1997. The yield is expected to average 621 pounds per harvested acre, up 9 pounds from last month, but down 59 pounds from last year. Upland cotton harvested acreage, at 10.1 million acres, is down 22 percent from last year, but up 15.0 thousand acres from November. American-Pima harvested acreage, at 246.5 thousand acres, is down 1 percent from 1997.

FIELD CROP ACRES HARVESTED, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

Crop	Acres Harvested		Yield Per Acre			Production		
	1997	Forecast 1998	Unit	1997	Forecast 1998	Unit	1997	Forecast 1998
-- 1,000 Acres --						-- Thousands --		
CALIFORNIA								
Wheat, Winter <u>1/</u>	400.0	380.0	Tons	2.25	1.80	Tons	900.0	684.0
Wheat, Durum <u>1/</u>	144.0	175.0	Tons	2.85	2.70	Tons	410.4	472.5
Oats <u>1/</u>	35.0	30.0	Tons	1.12	1.20	Tons	39.2	36.0
Barley <u>1/</u>	180.0	125.0	Tons	1.32	1.44	Tons	237.6	180.0
Corn for Grain <u>1/</u>	260.0	255.0	Tons	4.76	4.34	Tons	1,237.6	1,106.7
Rice, All <u>1/</u>	510.0	478.0	Cwt.	83.00	70.00	Cwt.	42,341.0	33,460.0
Long	9.0	9.0	Cwt.	77.00	<u>2/</u>	Cwt.	693.0	<u>2/</u>
Medium	485.0	450.0	Cwt.	83.20	<u>2/</u>	Cwt.	40,352.0	<u>2/</u>
Short	16.0	19.0	Cwt.	81.00	<u>2/</u>	Cwt.	1,296.0	<u>2/</u>
Cotton, Upland <u>3/</u>	875.0	650.0	Lbs.	1,202.00	849.00	Bales	2,191.0	1,150.0
Cotton, American-Pima <u>3/</u>	184.0	184.0	Lbs.	1,141.00	900.00	Bales	437.2	345.0
Sugar Beets <u>1/</u>	99.0	101.0	Tons	30.00	27.50	Tons	2,970.0	2,778.0
Beans, Dry, All <u>4/</u>	132.0	105.0	Cwt.	22.50	19.20	Cwt.	2,970.0	2,016.0
Hay, All <u>1/</u>	1,500.0	1,540.0	Tons	5.74	5.57	Tons	8,616.0	8,572.0
Alfalfa Hay <u>1/</u>	980.0	1,040.0	Tons	7.20	6.80	Tons	7,056.0	7,072.0
Other Hay <u>1/</u>	520.0	500.0	Tons	3.00	3.00	Tons	1,560.0	1,500.0
UNITED STATES								
Wheat, Winter <u>1/</u>	41,813.0	40,231.0	Tons	1.35	1.41	Tons	56,478.3	56,621.9
Wheat, Durum <u>1/</u>	3,107.0	3,728.0	Tons	0.83	1.13	Tons	2,585.8	4,232.1
Oats <u>1/</u>	2,911.0	2,807.0	Tons	0.97	0.97	Tons	2,817.7	2,718.8
Barley <u>1/</u>	6,425.0	5,984.0	Tons	1.40	1.44	Tons	8,987.5	8,596.8
Corn for Grain <u>1/</u>	73,720.0	73,789.0	Tons	3.56	3.73	Tons	262,236.1	275,409.9
Rice, All <u>1/</u>	3,034.0	3,187.0	Cwt.	58.96	56.60	Cwt.	178,896.0	180,396.0
Long <u>5/</u>	2,261.0	2,480.0	Cwt.	53.80	<u>2/</u>	Cwt.	121,647.0	132,934.0
Medium <u>5/</u>	755.0	685.0	Cwt.	73.95	<u>2/</u>	Cwt.	55,833.0	46,597.0
Short <u>5/</u>	18.0	22.0	Cwt.	78.67	<u>2/</u>	Cwt.	1,416.0	1,639.0
Cotton, Upland <u>3/</u>	13,021.0	10,143.0	Lbs.	673.00	616.00	Bales	18,245.0	13,019.6
Cotton, American-Pima <u>3/</u>	249.0	246.5	Lbs.	1,056.00	842.00	Bales	548.0	432.5
Sugar Beets <u>1/</u>	1,428.3	1,456.2	Tons	20.90	22.30	Tons	29,886.0	32,438.0
Beans, Dry, All <u>4/</u>	1,720.2	1,921.9	Cwt.	16.95	16.15	Cwt.	29,156.0	31,040.0
Hay, All <u>1/</u>	60,815.0	59,819.0	Tons	2.50	2.54	Tons	152,120.0	151,754.0
Alfalfa Hay <u>1/</u>	23,673.0	23,437.0	Tons	3.35	3.52	Tons	79,242.0	82,442.0
Other Hay <u>1/</u>	37,142.0	36,382.0	Tons	1.96	1.91	Tons	72,878.0	69,312.0

1/ Estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecast. 2/ To be released January 12, 1999. 3/ Cotton yield in pounds; production in 480 pound net weight bales. 4/ Excludes beans grown for garden seed. 5/ Rice class production forecasts for 1998 are based on a five-year average of class percentages.

PRICES RECEIVED BY CALIFORNIA FARMERS - NOVEMBER 1998

Prices received by California farmers at mid-November were above October for hay other than alfalfa, dry edible beans, upland cotton lint, and cottonseed. Mid-month wheat and barley prices, and full-month October prices for wheat and barley were not published due to possible disclosure of individual operations. Mid-month all potatoes, fall potatoes, all hay, and alfalfa hay were below the previous month's level. All available field crop prices were below November 1997's level.

U.S. PRICES RECEIVED INDEX RISES ONE POINT

The All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in November was 100 based on 1990-92=100, up one point (1.0 percent) from October. Price decreases from October for lettuce, hogs, broilers, and peanuts more than offset price increases for soybeans, milk, eggs, and wheat. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also affect the overall index level. Higher seasonal marketings of cotton, milk, cattle, and cottonseed more than offset the relatively lower marketings of soybeans, peanuts, potatoes, and sunflowers. These marketing changes more than offset a decrease in prices, and accounted for the one point increase in the overall index.

Compared with November 1997, the All Farm Products Index was seven points (6.5 percent) lower. Price decreases from November 1997 for hogs, corn, soybeans, and lettuce more than offset price increases for milk, broilers, oranges, and tomatoes.

The November All Crops Index was 102, up 2 percent from October, but 11 percent below November 1997. From October, price increases for oilseeds, food grains, and feed grains and hay offset price decreases for vegetables, fruit and nuts, and cotton.

The November Food Grains Index, at 106, was up 6 percent from the previous month, but 14 percent below November 1997. The November all wheat price, at \$4.95 per cwt., was up 30 cents from October, but 95 cents below November 1997.

The November Feed Grains & Hay Index was 87, up 2.4 percent from last month, but 22 percent below November 1997. The corn price, at \$3.46 per cwt., was up 5 cents from October, but \$1.02 below the November 1997 price. The all hay price, at \$81.40 per ton, was down \$3.80 from last month and \$18.60 below November 1997.

AVERAGE FARM PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		November 1997	October 1998	Nov. 15, 1998	November 1997	October 1998	Nov. 15, 1998
----- Dollars -----							
Corn 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.48	3.41	3.46
Wheat 2/	Cwt.	4/	4/	4/	5.90	4.65	4.95
Oats 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	5.19	3.44	3.50
Barley 2/	Cwt.	4/	4/	4/	5.44	3.88	4.19
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.01	2.96	3.12
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	9.71	9.25	9.26
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	37.70	31.30	31.90	18.60	19.60	19.90
All Potatoes 3/	Cwt.	8.20	9.35	7.20	5.13	4.47	4.88
Winter	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	13.00	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	8.20	8.55	7.20	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	123.00	93.00	86.00	100.00	85.20	81.40
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	127.00	96.00	89.00	107.00	88.10	85.00
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	82.00	46.00	47.00	75.80	72.50	69.30
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lb.	0.770	0.767	0.768	0.679	0.664	0.647
Cottonseed	Ton	---	135.00	175.00	124.00	120.00	133.00

1/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole. 2/ Previous month revised to monthly average. 3/ Monthly average.

4/ Not published due to possible disclosure.

INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES

Index	1910-14 = 100			1977 = 100		
	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1998	Nov. 1998	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1998	Nov. 1998
Prices Received - Unadjusted						
All Farm Products	680	630 1/	635	107	99 1/	100
All Crops	564	493 1/	504	114	100 1/	102
Food Grains	391	319 1/	337	123	100 1/	106
Feed Grains and Hay	399	306 1/	310	111	85 1/	87
Cotton	574	561 1/	547	112	110 1/	107
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	455	416 1/	449	90	82 1/	89
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities,						
Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	1,562	1,517 1/	1,515	117	114 1/	114
Parity Ratio 3/	44	42	42	91	87 1/	88

1/ Revised. 2/ All production indexes as of 15th of month. 3/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

DRY EDIBLE BEANS

California dry bean production is estimated at 2.02 million cwt., 32 percent below last year. Harvested acreage totaled 105 thousand, 20 percent below last year. The overall yield was 1,920 pounds per acre, down 15 percent from last year. **Large lima** production, at 475 thousand cwt., was 32 percent below the 1997 crop. **Baby lima** production, estimated at 300 thousand cwt., was 67 percent below last year's crop. **Light red kidney** production, at 130 thousand cwt., was 34 percent below last year. The **dark red kidney** output of 60.0 thousand cwt. was 34 percent below the 1997 crop. The **blackeye** crop of 666 thousand cwt., was down 3 percent from last year. Production of **garbanzos** totaled 85.0 thousand cwt., 37 percent below last year. **Pink bean** production, at 70.0 thousand cwt., was up 9 percent from 1997.

U.S. production of dry edible beans is estimated at 31.0 million cwt. for 1998, 6 percent above 1997 and 11 percent above two years ago. Area for harvest is estimated at 1.92 million acres, up 12 percent from 1997 and 10 percent above 1996. The average yield, at 1,615 pounds per acre, dropped 80 pounds from 1997. Production of most varieties was below 1997's level, except for black, pink, and pinto varieties. Black bean production increased 70 percent, pinks increased 25 percent, and pintos increased 37 percent from 1997.

DRY BEAN ACRES HARVESTED, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION, BY VARIETY, CALIFORNIA AND UNITED STATES, 1997-98 1/

Crop	Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	-- 1,000 Acres --		-- Cwt. --		-- 1,000 Cwt. --	
CALIFORNIA						
Large Lima	29.0	25.0	24.10	19.00	698.0	475.0
Baby Lima	36.0	12.0	25.40	25.00	914.0	300.0
Blackeye	29.0	31.0	23.80	21.50	690.0	666.0
Light Red Kidney	10.0	8.5	19.70	15.30	197.0	130.0
Dark Red Kidney	5.0	5.5	18.20	10.90	91.0	60.0
Pink	4.0	5.5	16.00	12.70	64.0	70.0
Garbanzo	9.0	5.0	15.10	17.00	136.0	85.0
Black	2/	2.5	2/	16.00	2/	40.0
Cranberry	4.0	2.5	17.50	16.00	70.0	40.0
Other (Misc.)	6.0	7.5	18.30	20.00	110.0	150.0
BEANS, ALL DRY	132.0	105.0	22.52	19.20	2,972.0	2,016.0
UNITED STATES						
Large Lima	29.0	25.0	24.10	19.00	698.0	475.0
Baby Lima	36.0	12.0	25.40	25.00	914.0	300.0
Blackeye	40.2	35.9	19.95	20.86	802.0	749.0
Light Red Kidney	83.9	71.7	18.70	15.69	1,569.0	1,125.0
Dark Red Kidney	61.1	62.8	15.91	13.82	972.0	868.0
Pink	36.6	48.8	19.10	17.87	699.0	872.0
Garbanzo	24.4	24.3	15.61	13.91	381.0	338.0
Small White	8.1	2.7	22.84	22.22	185.0	60.0
Navy	356.1	246.6	15.41	15.96	5,487.0	3,935.0
Great Northern	108.2	107.9	20.95	20.10	2,267.0	2,169.0
Cranberry	40.1	32.9	16.48	12.19	661.0	401.0
Small Red	42.0	31.8	21.43	20.75	900.0	660.0
Black	127.9	232.7	16.42	15.34	2,100.0	3,570.0
Pinto	683.2	935.5	15.85	15.85	10,827.0	14,832.0
Other (Misc.)	43.4	51.3	15.99	13.37	694.0	686.0
BEANS, ALL DRY	1,720.2	1,921.9	16.95	16.15	29,156.0	31,040.0

1/ Revised 1997 data will be published on December 18, 1998 in the "Field Crops: Final Estimates 1992-97." Excludes beans grown for garden seed.

2/ Included in "Other (Misc.)" for California.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION

California fall potato production is forecast at 3.71 million cwt., 12 percent below last season. Harvested acreage is down 2 percent, and yields are down 10 percent from a year ago.

144 million cwt. is up 7 percent from last year. Processors used 74 million cwt., up 8 percent from last year.

U.S. production of fall potatoes is estimated at 434 million cwt. in 1998, up 3 percent from a year ago, but 4 percent below 1996. December 1 stocks, at 281 million cwt. in the 15 storage states, are up 1 percent from last year, but 5 percent below 1996. A record disappearance of

Ten Western states produced 297.2 million cwt. in 1998, up 1 percent from last year, but 5 percent below two years ago. Acreage harvested, at 748,500 acres, increased 4 percent, while the average yield of 397 cwt. per acre was down 14 cwt. from a year ago. Summer heat led to smaller sizes, lower solids, and rougher potatoes in the Western states.

FALL POTATO ACRES HARVESTED, YIELD, AND PRODUCTION

State	Acres Harvested			Yield			Production		
	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998	1996	1997	1998
	- 1,000 Acres -			- Cwt. -			- 1,000 Cwt. -		
California	11.5	10.5	10.3	400	400	360	4,600	4,200	3,708
Idaho	28.0	27.0	28.0	425	470	450	11,900	12,690	12,600
- 10 SW Co.									
- Other Co.	385.0	371.0	385.0	340	344	330	130,900	127,624	127,050
Oregon	13.3	10.9	11.4	400	440	400	5,320	4,796	4,560
- Malheur Co.									
- Other Co.	47.7	42.6	46.6	520	525	465	24,804	22,365	21,669
Washington	161.0	152.0	165.0	590	580	565	94,990	88,160	93,225
UNITED STATES TOTAL	1,246.7	1,177.6	1,219.9	364	359	356	453,436	422,789	434,426

FALL POTATO STOCKS

Stocks of fall potatoes in California as of December 1, 1998 were estimated at 3.00 million cwt., an increase of 11 percent from last year. The amount in storage on December 1 represents 81 percent of production, compared with 64 percent a year ago.

Disappearance in the 15 states from the start of harvest to December 1 was a record high 144 million cwt. of potatoes, up 22 percent from the same period last year and 5 percent more than the previous record in 1996. Shrink and loss so far this year was increased almost 10 percent from 1997 to 17.1 million cwt., up from the 15.6 million cwt. lost a year ago, but 6 percent below the 18.1 million cwt. lost in 1996.

The 15 major potato states held 281 million cwt. of potatoes on December 1, 1998, up 1 percent from last year, but 5 percent below 1996. Storage accounted for 66 percent of 1998 fall production, two percentage points below last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 11 percent round white, 4 percent long white (Shepody), and 82 percent russet; more russets and fewer long whites are in storage than a year ago.

Processing of 1998 potatoes totaled 74.0 million cwt. used so far this season. This is up 8 percent from a year ago, but 5 percent below two years ago.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND STOCKS ON DECEMBER 1

State	Crop of 1997			Crop of 1998		
	Production	Stocks Dec. 1, 1997	Percent of Production	Production	Stocks Dec. 1, 1998	Percent of Production
	-- 1,000 Cwt. --			-- 1,000 Cwt. --		
	Percent			Percent		
California	4,200	2,700	64	3,708	3,000	81
Idaho	140,314	102,000	73	139,650	101,000	72
Oregon	27,161	20,500	75	26,229	20,000	76
Washington	88,160	47,000	53	93,225	49,000	53
TOTAL 15 STATES	412,776	278,630	68	425,115	281,020	66